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DEMOCRATS INTRODUCE LEGISLATION TO HELP
KEEP COMMUTERS MORE SECURE

WASHINGTON—Democratic members of the House of Representatives today introduced legislation designed to make the 30 million Americans who use public transportation and passenger rails safer by correcting the unreasonable lack of funds for transit security.

The "Secure Transit and Railroads across America and Investment in National Security Act of 2005," (or the "Secure TRAINS Act") introduced by Rep. Bennie G. Thompson (D-MS), Ranking Member of the U.S. House on Homeland Security, Democratic Caucus Chairman Rep. Robert Menendez (D-N.J.), Rep. Eleanor Holmes Norton (D-D.C.) and others would create dedicated funding for rail and transit security, and once again require the Department of Homeland Security to submit a National Transportation Security Plan for the nation's entire transportation systems.

"The deadly bombings on commuter trains in London last week and Madrid last year should be a wake up call for this country," noted Rep. Bennie Thompson (D-MS). "If the Administration does not move faster, I fear our nation will face the nightmare victims in those cities have experienced."

When he was head of the Transportation Security Administration Admiral James Loy promised the National Transportation Security Plan would be completed by the end of 2003. Congress later ordered the DHS to complete the report by April 1 of this year—but it's still pending.

The bill would also provide whistleblower protections for transit employees who identify light problems in transit security. These are the same protections stockbrokers and accountants already get when reporting corporate fraud.

"We should take the necessary steps to keep terrorists out of New York's subways, Boston's T, Chicago's El, Washington D.C.'s metro and the hundreds of bus systems across our nation."

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